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# The Hongkong Telegraph

WEATHER FORECAST  
FAIR.  
Barometer 30.10

January 24, 1918. Temperature 8 a.m. 52 1 p.m. 57  
Humidity 56 44

(ESTABLISHED 1851.)  
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January 24, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 55 2 p.m. 66  
Humidity 75 88

7862 二十月二十

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1918.

四拜禮 號四廿月一英港香

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PER ANNUM.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### BRITISH LABOUR DISCUSSIONS.

#### Suggested Fusion with Women Labourers.

London, January 23.  
Mr. Henderson, addressing the Women's Labour League at Nottingham, suggested a fusion with the Labour Party on the basis of a twenty per cent. female representation on the National Executive Council. Subsequently it was proposed that the Women's League cease to exist as a separate organisation.

#### Hopes of a Revolution.

London, January 23.  
At a joint conference of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party at Nottingham, Mr. Henderson moved the proposal which was adopted, to establish a National Labour Institute in London. He said that between three quarters of a million and a million bona fide members of British Labour organisations had joined the ranks during the war.

In the evening, M. Huysmans, Secretary to the International Socialist Bureau, expressed the opinion that if the moderate democratic war aims of the Labour Party were presented to the International Labour Conference, then the Austro-German Labour Party would be compelled to declare its war aims, and if a general agreement transpired the fighting would be paralysed. The recent declaration of the Entente and American heads of Government had made a greater impression on the German people than their Press admitted. He declared that the first question must be that of disarmament.

M. Litvinoff, following, defended the conduct of the Bolsheviks. He hoped that even if peace did not result from the Brest-Litovsk negotiations a revolution in Germany and "somewhere else"—(Cheers)—may come within the range of immediate possibilities.

### BRITISH INTERNMENT CAMPS.

#### Praise by Swiss Red Cross Commission.

London, January 24.  
A Zurich telegram says the Swiss Red Cross Commission has returned from its inspection of prisons and internment camps in India, Ceylon and Burma and report that it was received with the utmost courtesy by the British authorities and given the greatest freedom of movement. It received petitions and listened to the complaints of those interned, and they were finally invited to make suggestions for the bettering of camp conditions. The Commission found that the camps were placed in healthy situations and that the rations were the same and often better than those of the British guards. The Commissioners express the highest satisfaction at the cleanliness and hygiene of the camps, which were provided with excellent bathrooms, kitchens, concert rooms, theatres, reading rooms, gymnasiums, tennis and football grounds. The prisoners, who were mostly Germans, were placed in surroundings resembling comfortable family homes, well furnished with carpets, pictures, books and pianos. The Commission adds that those interned unanimously declare that they are well treated and not a single complaint was received.

### LORD BRYCE'S WAR SPEECH.

#### Pointed Remarks on Pacifism.

London, January 23.  
Lord Bryce, speaking at a banquet in London, said that the taking of Jerusalem was a great event in the history of the world. He congratulated the Arabs who had been despoiled and tyrannised by the Turks and also congratulated the whole of the world because it was interesting that the unspokeable Turk had been driven from the city he had done his best to ruin. Referring to the League of Nations, Lord Bryce said that there were societies established for the purpose of bringing about a permanent peace by means of a combination of the peace-loving peoples of the world. These societies had been looked upon suspiciously as pacifists. "I should like to say that, so far as I know, the leaders have no touch of pacifism in their minds and they are no less anxious to fight this war to a successful conclusion than other sections of the community. They believe that the only road to permanent peace is by the destruction of the spirit of aggressive militarism which put the world in danger. They think that the purposes and conduct of the German Government in the last three years have proved that the world can have no permanent peace until that system is overthrown."

### PUBLIC MEALS AT HOME.

#### Further Rationing Instituted.

London, January 23.  
The Press Bureau announces that a new Public Meals Order institutes two mealless days weekly. It prohibits the consumption of milk excepting in tea, coffee and omelette, for which persons must carry their own sugar. The following refer to some of the rationed articles:—Breakfast: No meat; three ounces of bread. Lunch: Three ounces of meat and two ounces of bread. Dinner: Three ounces of meat and three ounces of bread. Of fats, one-third of an ounce is allowed for each meal. The meat must be weighed, including bone, uncooked.

### THE WESTERN FRONT.

#### Our Airmen Visit Germany.

London, January 23.  
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We captured two machine guns in successful patrol encounters last night to the east of Ypres. The enemy raided a post south of St. Quentin and there was hostile artillery firing at Cambrai. Our aeroplanes at night dropped over two hundred bombs on aerodromes at Courtrai and billets at Roulers and Rumbek. We also raided Germany and dropped two tons of bombs on steel works at Thionville and on railway sidings at Bernsdorf and Arncliffe Junction. One of our machines is missing.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

London, January 23.  
The House of Lords, by 132 votes to 42, has decided that the principle of proportional representation be inserted in the Electoral Reform Bill.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

### THE DARDANELLES NAVAL ACTION.

#### How the Breslau was Accounted For.

London, January 23.  
The Admiralty details of the Goeben and Breslau engagement show that our destroyer, the Lizard, was patrolling to the north-east of Imbros when it sighted the Breslau and Goeben going north. The Lizard gave the alarm and opened fire. The enemy replied at 11,000 yards without hitting. The Goeben now sighted monitors in Kua Bay and engaged them, the Breslau continuing to engage the Lizard, which was prevented from closing to torpedo range by the enemy's accurate fire. The destroyer Tigress arrived and both made an effort to cover the monitors by a smoke screen, but both monitors were hit and sunk. The destroyers then followed the enemy and an explosion was observed on the Breslau, six miles to the south of Kephala. This was followed by three more explosions and she sank in ten minutes. The Goeben continued southwards and four enemy destroyers were then sighted coming out of the Dardanelles, supported by an old Turkish cruiser. The Tigress and Lizard immediately engaged the enemy destroyers, which retired up the straits. One of them was repeatedly hit and was set on fire. Our aircraft forced the Goeben to make for the Dardanelles, and in turning she struck a mine. She steamed slowly, escorted by enemy seaplanes and destroyers. Our aircraft repeatedly attacked her, directly hitting her twice, off Chanak.

The Goeben was now so badly damaged that she steered towards the shore and was beached at the end of Nagara Point. Our seaplanes made two more direct hits. In fighting the enemy seaplanes one of ours is missing. The Cape Helles batteries now opened fire on the Tigress and Lizard, which had followed the Goeben, but, owing to our aircraft activity, they proceeded to rescue the Breslau survivors. During these operations a submarine periscope was sighted and the rescue work was interrupted while the destroyers hunted for the submarine.

The Breslau survivors expressed their dislike for the Turks and stated that they had hoped to be sent back to Germany when the Goeben returned to Constantinople after the raid. Our aircraft reported on Monday that the Goeben had not changed her position and that we were still bombing her.

### AUSTRIAN UNREST.

#### Affairs Now Becoming More Normal.

London, January 23.  
According to Reuter's correspondent at Amsterdam, the strikes in Austria are drawing to a conclusion. All is quiet in Budapest. The Premier, Herr Welsky, has promised to give his immediate attention to suffrage reform and has threatened to dissolve Parliament if Count Ties obstructs it. The Chief of the Austrian General Staff, in a soothing statement in a Viennese Labour newspaper, declared that neither the Government nor the Army desired to obstruct peace. None wished for conquest or annexations. He strongly pleaded for patience, and contended that the evacuation of occupied territory in the East was a difficult problem in consequence of possibly lawless occupation by Russian military deserters entailing most disastrous effects.

### RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

#### Reported Success for Bolshevik Troops.

London, January 23.  
According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, the Bolsheviks report that their troops defeated the Ukrainians at Poltava and have captured the town.

#### Murders Condemned.

London, January 23.  
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd states that the Soviet has condemned the murders of M. Shingreff and M. Kokoshkin.

## EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

### AUSTRIA'S INTERNAL TROUBLES.

London, January 22.  
Reliable information confirms the seriousness of the labour and economic troubles in Austria-Hungary, but well-informed opinion scouts any idea that it is likely to lead to the separation of Austria and Germany owing to Germany's immensely strong economic, military and political hold in Austria.

### EAST INDIES FOOD PROBLEM.

Amsterdam, January 22.  
A press telegram from Batavia says that Britain is considering proposals by Dutch shippers to meet the shortage of cargo space to and from India on condition that the export of rice from Bangkok to the Dutch East Indies is re-opened. Shipping circles in Amsterdam are most gratified that an attempt is being made thus to solve the food problem of the Indies.

### COLONIAL EMPLOYMENT FOR SOLDIERS.

London, January 23.  
In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson informed Mr. H. A. Watt that it was untrue to say that the War Office had stopped recruiting black labour in South Africa.

### RECRUITING BLACK LABOUR.

London, January 23.  
In the House of Commons, Mr. Macpherson informed Mr. H. A. Watt that it was untrue to say that the War Office had stopped recruiting black labour in South Africa.

### ANOTHER RESIGNATION.

London, January 23.  
Following Sir Edward Carson's resignation, Mr. James Craig has resigned the Transvaal of the House of Commons.

## STOP PRESS TELEGRAM.

### A SHIPPING MISHAP.

#### (From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Warren arrived this afternoon with a broken tail shaft. She is being towed by the tug Alexandria. Presumably the vessel referred to is the U.S. transport Warren. —Ea. H.K.T.]

## AMERICAN TELEGRAMS.

The following are taken from the Manila Daily Bulletin:—

### Ex-Governor Cameron Forbes Honoured.

Boston, January 12.—Mr. W. Cameron Forbes, former Governor General of the Philippines, has been elected President of the Navy League which is working for a more efficient navy for the United States.

### The Proposed Munitions Bureau.

Washington, January 13.—The Bill providing for the creation of a separate Bureau of Munitions has probably been killed by the opposition of President Wilson, who on Saturday informed house members that he was against the measure and that he had confidence that the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy were fully capable of handling the munition question.

### Big Colliery Explosion.

London, January 13.—There has been a disastrous colliery explosion at Halesworth, Suffolk, and many of the miners are entombed. Over 100 dead bodies have been brought to the surface by those engaged in rescue work, but 140 are still missing. The cause of the explosion is not as yet known.

### Hawaiian-American Line Steamer Rammed.

An Atlantic Port, January 15.—The American-Hawaiian Steamship Company's steamer Texan has been rammed, according to a wireless message received here, and the 43 members of its crews have taken to the boats. A relief ship has already left this port for the scene of the disaster. A wireless from the Willamette, a wooden hulled steamer owned by McCormick and company of San Francisco, asking for a conveyance has also been received here, and it is believed that this is the vessel with which the Texan collided.

### The American Navy.

Washington, January 15.—Representative Oliver of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, has made a statement to the effect that the House Committee is thoroughly satisfied with the way Naval Ordnance has been handled since the outbreak of the war. The Shipping Board has equipped the entire American fleet and the merchant marine and many allied vessels with needed guns. Since March 14, more than 1,100 ships have been supplied and equipped. The reorganization and expansion of the Shipping Board has been virtually completed and offices have been established in London, Paris and Rome.

### U. S. Suffrage.

Washington, January 15.—Senate leaders intimate that there is little likelihood of action in the Senate on the suffrage amendment within two weeks.

### Chicago's Big Snow Storm.

Chicago, January 15.—One hundred thousand workers, many of them women in bloomers and overalls, are at work clearing the city of snow which is still falling. Through the efforts of these workers most of the trains stalled in drifts, have been extricated and have resumed their journeys. It is thought they are far behind their schedules.

### Senator Brady Dead.

Washington, January 15.—Senator Brady of Idaho, is dead here of heart disease.

### U. S. Sailings to be Requisitioned.

Washington, January 15.—The Council of National Defence has indicated to the Federal Shipping Board its intention of taking over all American sailing vessels, and has asked information with regard to the location of all such ships flying the American flag.

### Death of Major Gardner.

Washington, January 15.—Major Augustus Peabody Gardner, formerly a member of the United States Congress from Massachusetts, and a pioneer in the preparedness movement in the United States, has died at Camp Wheeler of pneumonia. Major Gardner, who received his commission last year, was at the training camp when stricken with the disease which caused his death, and the cold wave and storm which struck that locality last week hastened his end. He was 53 years of age, and served in Congress from 1902 until commissioned. During the Spanish-American War he was a Captain and Assistant Adjutant General on the Staff of General James H. Wilson. He was a son-in-law of Henry Cabot Lodge.

### Munition Bureau.

Washington, January 15.—Major General Barnett, commander of the United States marine corps, has voiced his opposition to the establishment of a Department of Munitions if this would interfere with the present marine purchasing system. The plan for a separate Cabinet Minister as head of a Department of Munitions has been abandoned.

### U. S. S. Texas Wins 1917 Target Shoot.

Washington, January 15.—The battleship Texas has been announced as winner of the 1917 gunnery contest among vessels of the American Navy.

### Japan and Vladivostok.

Washington, January 16.—The American Government has been officially informed by Tokyo that Japanese warships are being sent to Vladivostok in order to protect allied property lying at that port consigned to the former Russian Government, the obligations of which the Bolsheviks have publicly repudiated. According to the latest authentic information available there are millions of dollars worth of supplies from America and Japan lying at the Russian port, and protection of these is deemed necessary by the allies.

### Chicago Packers Troubles.

Washington, January 16.—A telegram received here from Chicago states that all of the large meat-packing houses there have been compelled to close down on account of lack of fuel.

### Supposed German Spies.

Washington, January 16.—A dispatch from Norfolk, Virginia, stated that Walter Spierman, believed to have been a German spy, was arrested here. He was identified with the Boy Scouts, and has been arrested here.

## CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes as follows under date of January 23:—

At a tea party given to journalists to-day, Dr. Sun said that he is not going to leave the stage but will work till his last breath. He earnestly requested these present to render him assistance.

Besides Ngai Pong-ping's troops, which leave Canton in a few days to attack Lung Chai-kwong's army six battalions commanded by Fan Ping-yue will start from Kwangsi to attack from the rear.

The branch office of C.M.S.N. Co. in Canton has demanded from the Provincial Treasury a sum of \$36,111.11 as payment for the use of the s.s. Kwangsi for 13 days in conveying troops to Swatow.

A report has reached Canton that Lung Chai-kwong's troops have captured Hsin Ming district (about 20 miles from Kwangsi boundary) and that the military commander there has fled.

Lau Wing-tung has wired to the Authority to despatch a number of field guns and ammunition for the defence of the boundary. From reports from various districts in the western part of the Province it has been calculated that Lung Chai-kwong's troops which have already passed the channel amount to 20 battalions of 500 each.

### Appointments.

Mr. M. J. Brett for five years past H. B. M. Vice-Consul at Hankow, and Mr. E. E. Anton, partner in Jardine, Matheson & Co., have been appointed by the Foreign Office Assistant Delegates of Great Britain on the Tariff Revision Commission.

### Queen's College Prize Day.

Acting under doctor's orders, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry May, K.C.M.G., will not be able to distribute the prizes at Queen's College this year, as he had promised to do. The prizes will be distributed by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn, C.M.G., at noon on Wednesday, February 6th.

## DONT FORGET.

### TO-DAY.

"Court Cards" at Theatre Royal—9.15 p.m.  
Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.  
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.  
New Hongkong Cinematograph—9.15 p.m.

### TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.  
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.  
New Hongkong Cinematograph—9.15 p.m.

### Tuesday, January 29.

West Point Building Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at 11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Central Estate, Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at 11.45 a.m.—Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at noon.—Hongkong Reclamation Land Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders at 12.15 p.m.

It is unofficially reported that he was caught last Saturday attempting to explode a magazine at the army aviation camp at Newport News. A telegram from Richmond also reports the arrest of a German named Walter Swann, who is reported as having attempted to set off a magazine at this camp.



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"	10	.50
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Non Plus Ultra	100	3.60
"	50	1.85
"	20	.75
Superfine	100	2.40
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## GENERAL NEWS.

## Rector's Sudden Death.

The Rev. C. F. Harrison, rector  
of Whiston, Radnorshire, died sud-  
denly at Knighton recently while  
waiting for his horse and trap to  
be got ready from him to drive  
home. He was formerly vicar of  
Llangunilo, Radnorshire, and  
afterwards of St. Mary's, Haver-  
fordwest.

## Railway Accident.

Communication with Peking  
has been temporarily interrupted  
owing to the train which left  
Fengtai this morning for Kaigang  
having seen fit to roll over on its  
side, thus completely blocking the  
permanent way between Peking  
and Tientsin, says the N. C. Daily  
Mail of the 12th instant. The  
accident, which happened about  
two miles outside of Fengtai, was  
not attended by any loss of life.

## New Vicar's Short Stay.

The Rev. A. G. Townsend,  
formerly vicar of St. John's,  
Harborne, Birmingham, who only  
last week (says the Times) of  
November 8) was inducted to the  
living of St. Saviour's, Bacon, has  
written to the Church Association,  
who are patrons of the living,  
stating that he had definitely  
decided to resign. A welcome  
meeting was being arranged. The  
previous vicar held the living for  
50 years.

## Glasgow's New Lord Provost.

Glasgow's Lord Provost, elected  
after a contest, is Mr. James  
Watson Stewart, who thus suc-  
ceeds Sir Thomas Dunlop. He has  
to hold office for three years. Mr.  
Stewart and the other candidate  
for the office both stood three  
years ago. The new Lord Provost  
was born in Rome, returning to  
Scotland as a child. He went to  
a school conducted by a brother  
of Sir J. M. Barrie. He is a char-  
tered accountant, with a good  
record of public service.

## Import and Exports Bill.

Sir Albert Stanley, President of  
the Board of Trade, was sponsor  
for a Bill issued on November 16;  
under the title of the Imports  
and Exports (Temporary) Bill.  
Its object is to continue for three  
years after the war the powers  
the Government have exercised  
during the war as regards the  
control of imports. Otherwise,  
it is pointed out, as soon as  
hostilities cease there will be no  
power to prohibit importation of  
goods of a particular origin, or to  
prohibit exportation, except in  
the case of certain specified  
classes of goods.

## "Yankee Rabble."

As an evidence of the way in  
which the United States and its  
people are regarded by certain of  
the children of Prussian Kultur  
who have sought and found refuge  
and hospitality in the Republic,  
the following extract from a letter  
written by one of them concerning  
the "Yankee rabble," and found  
among some enemy alien papers  
seized in Hoboken, N. J., may  
interest the reader:—"Do the  
cowardly dogs think they can  
raise their hands against our  
great, hard-struggling Fatherland  
in its sorest hour of need? Let  
us therefore endure these humili-  
ations silently with gnashing teeth,  
but our hour will come. We of  
the younger generation will re-  
member the Star-spangled Banner  
people, too. Hooh the Kaiser and  
the Empire!"

## Cheerfulness at the Front.

Cardinal Bourne, who has  
recently been visiting the  
Western Front, gave an account  
of his experiences at St.  
Mary of the Angels, Baywater.  
He said no one could fail to be  
impressed by the courage and  
endurance shown by the men who  
were engaged in the tremendous  
conflict, endurance both physical  
and moral. Cheerfulness was  
shown by those who were  
stricken by terrible wounds,  
and those who knew that death  
might be their lot at any moment,  
and behind all there was an  
absolute and unvarying con-  
fidence in the ultimate result.  
Words failed him to describe the  
unselfish heroism of the men who  
went, undaunted, through a  
country sodden with water where  
they frequently sank, not only up  
to the knees on the waist, but  
quite often up to the neck or  
beyond it. There was no rest  
day or night. And, what was  
most striking, these men, who  
they had not seen for weeks.

## THERAPION

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## YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL.

## UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

## Royal Engineers v. Middlesex Batts.

Played on the Club Ground at 2.30 p.m. The teams were:—  
 Engineers.—Roeke; Obarter, Lucas, Hopton, Smith, White, Millard, Townsend, Osborne, Todd, Pascoe.  
 Middlesex.—Turner; Fawthrop, Allen; Forsey, Fawthrop, Turner, Watts, Cock, Jarvis, Towler, Walden.

Referee.—Mr. Tucker.  
 The Engineers had great difficulty in putting a team in the field, no less than four reserves turning out. The first half was much in favour of the Sappers, but their shooting in front of goal left much to be desired. Townsend especially missing some fine chances given him by Osborne. At the other end, Watts put in a good shot, which was cleared. Walden forced two corners in quick succession, the last of which was put behind. Play was transferred to the other end, Osborne putting in some fine work. Half-time:—No score.

The second half was much more even, both ends being visited in turn, but the defence of each side was too good for the opposing forwards and when the whistle blew for time, neither side had scored. The Middlesex are the first team to snatch a point from the Sappers. It is hoped that the latter will be able to field their full team for the next match.

DEVISION 2.  
 Staff & Depts. v. 33rd Co. R. G. A.

Play on the Club Ground. The teams were:—  
 S. & D.—Glennay; Wain, Lawrence; Townsend, Sherrard, Hoath; Sherff, Connor, Taylor, Ellarby, Kirby.

32nd Co. R. G. A.—Gladwin; Attwood, Fereoh; Wright, Long, Nicholls; Dieks, Swan, Perkins, Downe, Hammond.

The Staff and Depts. gained two valuable points in this match yesterday, winning by two goals to one. This gives them 4th place in the League table. The Gunners opened the scoring, Hammond doing the needful after catching a rebound off the goal. Just before half-time, Ellarby put the scores level. Half-time, 1-1.

The second half was far from the standard shown in the first half, but no doubt this was due to each side being anxious to obtain the winning goal. Wright, of the Gunners, put in some very fine work. From a nice bit of passing, Kirby gave the Staff the lead, which they retained to the end. Result:—Staff and Depts, 2, 32nd Co. R. G. A., 1.

## Saturday's Match.

The following players have been picked to represent the Hongkong Defence Corps in their U. S. League match with the Middlesex on Saturday the 26th inst. at 4 p.m. on the Club Ground:—Goldenburg; Cave, McCubbin; Ralston, Stewart, Rodger; Grimmett or Wood, Pascoe, Gerrard, McTavish, Morrison. Reserves:—Railton.

## Cricket Match.

The Civil Service meet the 83rd Co. R. G. A. in a friendly match on the Civil Service ground at 2 p.m. on Saturday next. They will be represented by:—Hon. C. Severn, C.M.G., (Captain), R. E. O. Bird, W. E. Dixon, D. M. Goodall, B. W. Bradbury, J. O. O. Fletcher, R. O. Witcomb, W. H. Edmond, C. M. W. Reynolds, F. J. Ling and P. T. Lumble.

## Stolen Malt.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with the unlawful possession of a quantity of malt. A constable said that when he asked defendant where he had got it, he replied that he had picked it up from the deck of a ship. A previous conviction was proved against him for a similar offence. His Worship fined him \$10, or, in default, 14 days' hard labour.

## MARINE COURT INQUIRY.

## To-day's Proceedings.

At the Marine Court to-day the enquiry was continued into the alleged misconduct of Mr. G. N. Major, whilst Chief Officer of the S.S. Manapour on November 12, in taking the ship out of the hands of the master, Captain Wilson. Commander C. W. Beckwith, R. N., presided, and Commander F. Gibson (H. M. S. Tamar) Capt. W. Davison, R. N. R., Captain T. A. Mitchell and Captain R. A. Birt were also present. Mr. W. E. L. Shenton appeared on behalf of Mr. Major, and Mr. O. G. Alabaster, instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner, on behalf of Captain Wilson.

Mr. Major, questioned by several members of the Court on points of navigation, contended that during the scene on the bridge with the Captain, and also when the light of the other steamer was sighted, he did all that he could for the safety of the ship. He was being sworn at and had to protect himself at the same time.

Cross-examined by Mr. Alabaster, witness stated that when he altered the course without consulting the master he thought the ship was running into danger. He did not call the master, though he admitted that it was usual to do so. He did not make an entry in the log of the changed course. There had been no friction between him and the Captain and he did not think it necessary to inform the Captain. He was in charge of the bridge and felt justified in doing what he did. It was not true, that at about six o'clock he hatched a plot with the Chief Engineer and the second officer and arranged a system of private signals. What he did was to say that he might have to take charge of the ship and he asked them if they would obey his orders. He denied that he contemplated making, with the Chief Engineer, a mutiny.

Mr. Alabaster stated that the Chief Officer had not only admitted the two charges brought by the Captain, but had altered the course and taken charge of the ship without consulting him. Mr. Major admitted doing so, saying he was guided by the circumstances. He did what was best for the safety of the ship, and had decided that the safety of the ship depended on him.

Following further questions Mr. Alabaster said that it was evident that at 6.15 p.m. Mr. Major had arranged private signals with the Chief Engineer, that if the telegraph was rung in a certain way it would indicate that Mr. Major had taken charge of the ship. He first contemplated taking charge of the ship at about three o'clock, having regard to the master's condition. Mr. Major admitted that what he had done was a most serious matter, but Captain Wilson was drunk at the time. He admitted leaving the bridge afterwards for a time, but he went to prevent the Captain striking him and to tell the others to come and help him. He thought he ought to send for the iron and was prepared to put the Captain in irons if he had struck him. Witness was the only other certified man on board, and had to do what he did. Had not the Captain held the rail of the bridge he would have fallen down. He thought that later the Captain was like a mad.

Questions relating to the lights that were seen and the conversation which took place between the witness and the Captain, were then asked by Mr. Alabaster. Continuing, the witness said that through the actions of the master the ship was without a master and almost without a mate. He plotted nothing, and protested against the use of the term. He admitted saying that if he were ordered to his room he could stay there till he got back to Hongkong, but he only said that as what the Captain would do.

The enquiry has not yet concluded.

## The Wanchai Affray.

An excellent series of photographs of the Wanchai Affray is on sale at Mac O'Connell's.

## HONGKONG FILIPINOS.

## An Appreciation of British Freedom.

The following is from the Manila Times of January 17:—  
 On the 30th day of December, the Filipinos celebrated B'nal Day in Hongkong as usual. The celebration was held in the house of Dr. T. H. Pardo de Tavera, former Philippine commissioner. Dr. Tavera delivered the address of the day.

Among other things, he said:—  
 "It causes me the greatest pleasure to speak of B'nal in Hongkong, not only because of the fond remembrances that our hero preserved of this place, but also on account of the important part that this most hospitable British colony has played in the political history of the Filipino people."

"When, in our own country, the life and liberty of our patriots was in danger, on account of the intolerable colonial policy prevailing there, here we always found a safe and sure refuge. Because no matter where the flag of Great Britain flies, it has always carried with it, the assurance that men could live free and secure, without distinction as to colour or nationality."

"It was thus that those deported to the Marianas because of the revolution in Cavite of 1872, found refuge in Hongkong. Those Basco, Mauricio, Mearantes and others who did not care to return, to lose unjustly their lives and liberties, as occurred with that unfortunate individual, Maximo Inocencio, came. Here also came Agrisaldo and his companions of B'nal-bato, until, as time passed, the Stars and Stripes were raised over the Philippines, and we, also, were assured of that liberty and security that caused us to envy Hongkong so much."

"Now, gentlemen, when England and her sisters, Canada, and Australia, and later her older daughter, now the United States—when these nations of the English tongue, champions of liberty and human dignity, intervened in this great world war, we, Filipinos, have the high honour and at the same time the great satisfaction to see that our Legislature has offered our soldiers to partake in the struggle on the battlefields of Europe, side by side with and underneath the flag of the English peoples, for the cause of liberty and justice. For all of this I have the pleasure to express the satisfaction that I feel, to make public tribute of gratitude and sympathy to this British colony, in which we, also, those of us present, find such noble hospitality."

## A TIME FOR STRONG NERVES.

Many people are worrying seriously over the high cost of living, and to all, war time, with its excitement and hysteria, is a trial to the strongest nerves. To those whose nervous systems are run down by overwork or worry, to those who are on the verge of neurasthenia, it is a time of danger.

There is no tonic for the nerves that is not a tonic for every other part of the body. There is no form of debility that does not rob the nerves of nourishment. The remedy, therefore, for nervous breakdown is a tonic that will build up the general health, revitalize the blood, and enable it to carry to the nerves the elements that they need.

Dr. Williams' pink pills are an ideal tonic for this condition, because they are non-alcoholic, and neurasthenic patients should avoid alcohol and other stimulants. These pills give strength and steady the nerves because they build up the blood, which can then do its work of invigorating the system.

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## DAIRY FARM NEWS.

## POULTRY.

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 AND  
 CHICKENS

ARE THE BEST IN THE EAST

TENDER EATING, DELICATE  
 FLAVOUR---TRY THEM.

## A SHANGHAI BRAWL.

Germans in Uniform Create  
 a Disturbance.

The unusual sight, and one from which Shanghai has fortunately been free for some time, was to have been seen in North Szechuen Road Extension on a recent Wednesday night of two Germans in naval uniforms. The N. C. Daily News, Det. Sgt. Schmidt was informed that there were some Germans fighting in the Mascot Bar, and on going there found Paul Oscar Lucas and Charles Grenlich in naval uniforms fighting with other Germans. The officer was warned that Lucas was carrying a revolver and indeed, when he grappled with the man, felt something of the sort in his pocket. He retained his hold of Lucas and when the struggle was resumed in the street Lucas passed something to his companion who, threw it into an alleyway, which was subsequently searched without result.

The man were arrested in a drunken condition, and later were charged with causing a disturbance in North Szechuen Road Extension, before M. Kriest, American Assessor, and Magistrate Yui, Lucas was also charged with damaging a red lamp to the extent of \$2, the property of the Shanghai Tramway Co., which he was alleged to have picked up and thrown to the ground. Lucas was fined \$30, or sentenced in default to a fortnight's imprisonment, while Grenlich was fined \$10 or five days. The men were also remanded in their own recognizances in order that proceedings might be taken for unlawfully wearing the uniforms. In the meantime the Chinese military authorities are to be asked if they wish to take jurisdiction.

For the Fatherland.  
 According to the League of Nations correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company, the collection of hair among the women of Munich, organized by the German Navy League, has realized over 300 lbs weight. The hair is used for driving belts in U-bust machinery.

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## LOSS OF THE LAERTES.

Warrimoo's Captain Severely Reprimanded.

The decision of the Court of Inquiry held with regard to the collision between the British steamships Warrimoo and Laertes on December 15 was delivered in the Marine Court yesterday afternoon, says the Straits Times of January 16. The Court was formed of Mr. Ralph Scott, district judge, as president, Lieut. Omdar, B.A. Ostor, B.N., (Master Attendant), Capt. E.H. Gibson and Capt. E.A. Shepherd (pilot). The Deputy Public Prosecutor (Mr. A.V. Brown) conducted the inquiry. Mr. Clement Everitt was for the owners of the Warrimoo and the Hon. Mr. F.M. Elliot for the captain, Mr. M.J. Upcott; was for the owners of the Laertes and the Hon. Mr. O.L. Carver for the captain, and Mr. O.E. Smith-Marrriott was for the Shanghai Fire and Marine Insurance Co.

The collision occurred about 2 a.m. on December 15 near the Brothers Lights in the Straits of Malacca, and as a result the Laertes was sunk. The findings of the court on the questions put were as follows:—

1. (i) The Warrimoo was properly found and equipped and in a seaworthy condition on leaving Saigon on December 12.

(ii) The Laertes was properly found and equipped and in a seaworthy condition on leaving Penang on December 13.

2. The Warrimoo and the Laertes carried their proper complement of officers as required by law.

3. A proper look-out was kept on board both the Warrimoo and the Laertes, but that on board the Warrimoo does not appear to have been as good as it ought to have been.

4. Proper navigation lights were exhibited by both vessels, but it is possible that the Warrimoo's red light may have been partly obscured by the life rafting lashed aboard, or anything which may have been placed on them, for example, coiled ropes, etc.

5. The Laertes sighted the Warrimoo 20 or 25 minutes before the collision, and the Warrimoo sighted the Laertes about 15 minutes before the collision.

6. Proper steps were not taken on board the Warrimoo by the officer in charge of the watch to ensure safe navigation. The officer in charge of the Laertes acted properly in altering course to port, but should not have given the whistle signals at the time he did.

7. (i) The vessels were not meeting on, or nearly on, within the meaning of article 18 of the Collision Regulations.

(ii) The vessels were not crossing vessels within the meaning of article 19; they were passing vessels on opposite courses.

8. The collision occurred at 2 a.m., as fixed by the engine room clock of the Warrimoo.

9. It is unknown how long after the collision the Laertes foundered.

10. One deck passenger was killed on board the Warrimoo as a result of the collision, but no blame attaches to anyone for this.

11. The master of the Warrimoo rendered assistance to the Laertes as required by section 423 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894.

12. (i) The stern and bows of the Warrimoo were badly damaged.

(ii) The Laertes was a total loss.

13. The collision was caused by the wrongful act of the master of the Warrimoo in porting his helm.

14. The Court severely reprimanded the master of the Warrimoo, but has not dealt with his certificate.

There was no necessity to consider the question with reference to the master of the Laertes.

15. The assessors' fees are to be paid by the Government. The question of any other costs is reserved for argument if any of the parties desire to raise it.

The President proceeded to read an annex to these findings, reviewing the evidence in detail and giving the opinions of the Court on various matters raised therein and guiding them in their findings. It was stated that a few minutes before the collision the ships were green to the Laertes.

## THE WANCHAI TRAGEDY.

A Chinese Constable Succumbs to Injuries.

Another of the unfortunate Chinese constables shot in the Green Street affair has succumbed to his injuries. This is P.C. 29, Kwong Sang, who was shot in the stomach. He was one of the search party and was found in the same room where Inspector O'Sullivan and Sergeant Clarke were killed, hiding under the bed.

St. Paul's College.

The prize distribution at St. Paul's College, arranged for Saturday evening, has been postponed. The breaking-up concert will be held as usual.

green, and on continuing courses would have gone clear, but one of them suddenly showed the other her red and green lights. The master of the Laertes, Capt. Jenkins, was at liberty to alter his course to port three degrees and should have signalled the change with two blasts at the time he did so, but in signalling after he had steamed on his new course, without further change of course, he was giving misleading information to the other ship; neither of these signals, however, appeared to have been heard, and even if heard were not contributory factors to the accident. The master of the Warrimoo should not have ported his helm. It was suggested that Capt. Benfield might have gone off the bridge temporarily. Without going as far as that, the Court considered that he might not have been on the alert as officer of the watch if his first intimation of the near proximity of another ship was the report from the look-out. He had, however, only one officer, and had been on duty practically since 6.15 the previous evening; he had finished that position of his run necessitating careful navigation, up to the Brothers, and after passing them had a clear run before him. Under those circumstances he might have relaxed his attention. That could account for the presence of the look-out man on the bridge and the statement that he was pacing backwards. It was therefore possible that being called hastily and seeing a ship's lights close on him, he gave the order to port before he realized what the position really was.

Under ordinary circumstances the certificate of the master of the Warrimoo would have been dealt with without the least hesitation. The three assessors, however, were unanimously of the opinion that his certificate should not be suspended. They considered that under the present conditions that action was not advisable. They were also of the opinion that though the ship had on board the minimum number of certificated officers required by law, in view of the long voyage which the Warrimoo was making and so on, two certificated officers were inadequate, and too much extra work and responsibility were thrown on the master and the chief officer. They pointed out also that though the legal minimum of officers was on board, the actual practice until recently had been for ships taking even shorter voyages to carry a greater complement of officers.

Mr. Everitt, on this point, said that the ship had been carrying two more officers, but one broke a leg and one left the ship in Saigon. Instructions were wired down here to get a man, and one was to have joined at Colombo, and was still waiting there. The circumstances at the time of the accident were therefore quite abnormal.

The President said that no reflection on the owners was intended in what he had said.

As to the costs, Mr. Carver said that as the assessors' fees were to be paid by the Crown, there were no other costs in question.

In this the other counsel agreed. We understand that the Court also decided to expunge the evidence of the Chief Officer of the Laertes.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the Hongkong Telegraph.]

## REVOLVER INSTRUCTION.

[To the Editor of the Hongkong Telegraph.]

Sir,—It is an amazing fact—made more so by the recent sad happenings in Wanchai—that revolver instruction is not included in the training of the Special Police Reserve. Military drill there is in plenty, and once a year a pilgrimage is made to Stonecutters, where much useful ammunition, time and patience is used, all to no purpose.

In recent lectures to the Reserve, the officer diets has been: "If you are called upon to use a revolver it must only be in self-defence, and then you should aim at the culprit's legs."

My object in writing this is not to throw ridicule on any part of the Reserve's training, but to suggest that in omitting instruction in the use of a revolver, a serious lapse has occurred. The procedure is for a Special to report for duty at one or other of specified stations. He is given a belt to which he attaches a revolver in a case. Whether the weapon is loaded, obsolete or otherwise, or of what pattern, is unknown to him. It may be argued that no instruction in the use of a revolver is necessary and that in any case members of the Reserve are not likely to be called upon to undertake such work as ended the lives of brave men the other day.

The first may be true, but the latter, if an argument, is absurd. It should be remembered that many of the sections patrolled embrace evil-smelling slums and rookeries that are as dark and overcrowded as Hades: that a P.C. may be called upon to investigate anything and everything and that even in dispersing a crowd which is an obstruction he is virtually in danger.

This undoubted fact also prompts the suggestion that the Reserve should be weeded of those of its members who, though full of enthusiasm are yet young in years.

Yours, etc.,

G. C.

Hongkong, 24th Jan. 1918.

## HOCKEY NOTES.

The list of fixtures for the United Services Hockey League (Shield Competition) has now been arranged. All matches are to be played on Monday and Friday, time of play off to be arranged by the Secretary (Lieut. Jones) according to time of year. The teams which have entered are 88th Coy. R.G.A., 87th Coy. R.G.A., 83rd Coy. R.G.A., R.E. Navy, and H.K.D.C., and return matches are to be played. In the event of two teams tying, another match is to be played for a decision.

Up-to-date H.K.D.C. has met 83rd Coy. R.G.A. winning by 3 goals to 1 and 88th Coy. R.G.A. has met the Navy winning by 1 goal to nil. Tomorrow, 88th Coy. R.G.A., the holders of the shield, meet H.K.D.C., the runner-up last year, and a good game should result. The Defence Corps have lost several players, but as they are only running one team this year, ought to be quite strong. The 88th Coy. R.G.A. have lost four of their forwards, but their last year's defence is still intact. The Navy turned out a much stronger team than usual in their first game and it is hoped they will be able to keep it together. If they can do so, they should do well in the League.

The 87th Coy. R.G.A. have had difficulty in getting together a team and have had to cancel their first two matches. However, it is hoped they will yet be able to avoid withdrawing from the League. The R.E.'s have not been seen out yet, but both they and 83rd Coy. R.G.A. hope to give a good account of themselves.

## THE GERMAN WAR-DEBT.

(By Victor MacClure.)

Some of the combatants in this war argue that, since it is for posterity we fight, posterity ought to foot the bill. The Germans claim to be fully convinced that they are fighting for the benefit of generations to come. Whether they are justified in that conviction or not is a contestable matter, but they are so firm in their conviction that they have determined "perhaps more than any of the combatants that posterity shall liquidate the debt the country incurs in this conflict."

Britain has borne to a surprising degree the cost of the war by putting stiff taxes on the present generation. To instance only one tax, there is the one of 25 per cent. on incomes over a certain sum.

Germany, on the other hand, has raised towards war expenditure hardly a penny by taxation. All she has spent on the prosecution of her unsuccessful war has been got from a flimsy structure of loan upon loan. Before the war, her taxation was insufficient to meet her peacetime expenditure and since the coming of war she has increased her taxes only to meet the deficit on an imaginary peace budget.

The loans raised by the Germans demand payment in interest—according to the estimates given in the Reichstag on 27th February 1917—of 4,000 millions of marks annually, and a paying-off of the capital at the rate of 1,000 millions besides. The German war credits, already voted by the autumn of this year, amount on the German showing to somewhere about 100,000 millions of marks.

According to the budget of 1914, there accrued to the state 1,800 millions of marks by taxation and in February of this year it was said in the Reichstag that there had been an increase since the beginning of hostilities of 1,400 millions of marks. Count von Westarp declared during the budget debate in February that it was necessary to double that sum even to meet the interest of the War Credits. That did not allow for the ordinary state expenditure, nor did it take into consideration the cost of reconstructing the mercantile marine, the building up of industries closed down by the war, the paying of pensions to the disabled and the widows and children of the dead, the re-establishment of East Prussia on a pre-war basis, and the hundred and one losses that will have to be faced after the war.

The estimate of Count von Westarp in the Reichstag was that in Germany taxation would have to be multiplied four times, if not five. The Count based on this estimate an argument that indemnities were necessary from the enemies of Germany and that it was essential she should hold all occupied land specially the coal and iron bearing parts of Belgium and France. With that phase of his argument it is not necessary to deal. No one but the most hide-bound Junker in Germany believes in the indemnity doctrine. The ordinary German shows signs of wishing he could get out of the war on a basis of the *status quo ante bellum*. But Count von Westarp's estimate is valuable in so far as it gives the outside world a notion of what stares Germany in the face.

In February of this year the German Treasury would dearly have liked to increase the taxation, but it was not possible to do so, inasmuch that the people already had to pay more than they were really able. The new taxation introduced then was on coal and transport—a very weakening form of taxation which had not the faintest hope of surviving the war, since it would merely cripple the reviving industries. There was also the increase of 20 per cent. in the war-profits tax which would bring to the state 430 millions of marks—another tax which would die with the war.

Not taking into consideration the Credits passed in February, there already was in April the

## CHINA'S SQUABBLES.

Some Japanese Press Opinions.

Tokyo, January 17.—An interesting discussion has arisen in the Japanese press through the publication in the Jiji of a special article entitled "My view on China" which is contributed by a "high diplomat." The purpose of the article evidently is to show that it would be fully to support the Southern revolutionary element because the Northerners are always the more powerful and able to control the country.

It points out that the suppression of the first and second revolutions and the movement for the restoration of a monarchy were all carried out by the Northerners, and it asserts that General Tuan Chi-jui is at present the most powerful man in China.

The Asahi, controverting these statements, attacks the writer, saying that it has no doubt that he is a high Government official and his purpose is easily to be understood. The Asahi says that the article gives evidence of a complete misunderstanding of the situation in China, the newspaper maintaining that General Tuan Chi-jui and the Northern militarists have demonstrated their weakness and failure.

Dr. Terao, who is considered a high authority on Chinese matters, in articles in the Jiji and Asahi, contradicts the "high diplomat." He says that Japan would be making a very serious error if she put all her eggs in one Northern basket.—Reuter.

current interest to be paid on war-debt to the amount of 3,250 millions of marks. Several votes of 1918 accounted for 800 millions of that sum. The coal and transport tax was estimated to produce 815 millions, which together with assured receipts brought a total of 1,420 millions to be set against the interest sum of 3,250 millions; leaving 1,830 millions to be faced. Deducting the excess profits tax increase, 430 millions, left 1,400 millions of marks of current interest to be paid off.

The transport and coal tax and the increase on the excess profits tax cannot be called real taxation. They are simply discounts on the Government's war expenditure and at most a poor palliation of the disease at the root of German finances.

The first war-profits tax, submitted to the Reichstag by Helfferich in March, 1916, was earmarked, not for the reduction of deficits left uncovered up to the conclusion of the war, but for the purpose of paying off debt after the war. Although there was a deficit at the end of 1915, Helfferich would neither use the war-profits tax nor introduce a loan to meet it. By this precedent and his declaration that to meet a deficit from loan was unsound finance, he harnessed the successor, Count Roederer, to the principle he expressed. Count Roederer was therefore unable to use his richest source of revenue for present purposes, but had to hark about for other means of raising money. He found them in the coal and transport taxes. (Vide George Bernhard in "Plutus"; February 1917).

Dr. Weinmar in the Reichstag definitely assumed that the amount received from the excess war-profits tax would be set against the debt of current interest. Next morning a financial expert assumed that it would be earmarked for the payment of capital debt after the war on an established precedent. All of which creates an impression of obscurity to the outside observer.

The whole truth of the matter is that Germany is faced with ever increasing debt, of which her revenue cannot pay even the interest, let alone capital. She originally staked her future upon speedy victory and huge indemnities from conquered countries. "It is after the war that the great retribution will come, when Germany is left to struggle with a burden of debt, artificially increased by its own methods of finance, for which no effective provision has been made."—The Economist, August 1917.

## THE BREAD RATION.

Some Interesting Facts.

The normal allowance of bread for the soldier at the front is 1 lb., whilst at home he gets slightly less. Until recently it reached him in the form of a 2 lb. loaf, officially known as the "Coburg" to which were attributed the merits of "popularity with the soldier" and ability to stand "a fair amount of knocking about."

War conditions, however, have modified the methods of army bakers, and the "Coburg" has succumbed to more conventional patterns, and is seen no more. War conditions have modified, too, the flour from which the loaves are baked. Formerly a pure wheat flour, it is now adulterated with a mixture of maize and other grain, in the same manner as that consumed by the civil population. Rye bread, however, with which the soldiers of at least one continental army are content, finds no place in the dietary of British troops, who thus reflect the prejudice of their race in favour of white bread.

The Army has always baked its own bread. Its bakeries, which are in the hands of the Army Service Corps, are situated at convenient centres in England and on lines of communication in France. One of these bakeries, at a big supply depot near London, bakes 50,000 loaves per day. The dough is mixed in two machines, each of which mixes sufficient for 364 loaves. There are 20 ovens, each of which can bake 360 loaves in forty-five minutes. These ovens are never idle for a moment for the bakery is working night and day, half the loaves being baked by the day shift, and half by the night shift. Normally this bakery is making bread for 100,000 men, but at one period during 1915, it was supplying 150,000 men with 75,000 loaves daily.

In France the bakeries are organised on a still larger scale. At a certain bakery, in a base port, 300,000 loaves are baked every day. The flour is brought direct from Canada or America, and stored at the bakery. When the loaves are baked they are kept 24 hours; for new bread would never stand the journey to the front, and then packed in sacks, and sent up with other rations to the troops in the forward areas.

At no period of the war have the bakers of the Army Service Corps been unable to cope with the Army's demand for bread. The system of supply from Central Depots has proved itself capable of ready expansion, and though in the early days of the war, orders for bread were placed with contractors, such arrangements were only of a temporary character, and soon gave place to the system of the Army bakeries, in which flour bought by the Army Contracts Department was baked. As the Army consumes several million loaves per week, it can easily be understood that the task of the Army's bakers is thus no light one.

Before the war, the Contracts Department at the War Office bought the flour required for the Army's bread in the open market in England. Fourteen months' experience, however, showed that better results could be obtained by purchasing flour in the Canadian market and importing direct to the base ports in France. Accordingly, with the assistance of the Canadian Government, arrangements were made to put such a system into effect. The Canadian Pacific Railway acted as our purchasing agents, and direct shipments to France of Canadian flour, milled in Canada from Canadian wheat, have been made continuously since the autumn of 1915. Large quantities of flour, however, are still to be made in England, the situation being that there was no necessity for the War Office to purchase direct from Canada over the market. Since October 1916, the Government has placed the control of the whole of the grain supplies of

the country in the hands of a specially appointed Commission. The Commissioners undertake to purchase, for the use of Great Britain and her Allies, the surplus of the whole of the world's production of wheat. They also exercise control over the English flour-mills, supplying them with grain, and regulating the distribution of flour to meet the needs of the army and the civil population. In this way the Army continues to purchase flour in the English market much as it did before the War, whilst at the same time drawing additional supplies for the troops at the front direct from the Canadian markets.

Canada and the United States have supplied most of the corn required by our armies, whilst some has also been sent from Australia, but difficulties of transport have prevented us from taking a full advantage of the Australian crops. Wheat for the armies is Egypt and at Salonika has been brought from India, and France and Italy have also drawn supplies from this source.

During the first eighteen months of the war the Army had consumed nearly a thousand million pounds of wheat. At present a million soldiers are consuming between seven and ten million pounds of flour per week, which represents the crop of 14-16 square miles of wheat fields. When further it is taken into consideration that supplies from Russia, one of the principal exporting countries, have been almost entirely cut off, it can easily be understood that the situation calls for the most stringent measures of control.

It is not always possible to supply the troops in the field with bread, nor would it be advisable for bread to form the staple item of the Army's ration, unless some less perishable alternative were also provided. Such an alternative is supplied by biscuits. If, for any reason, it is found impossible to supply the full allowance of bread, biscuits are substituted, and the bread ration may thus consist partly of bread, and partly of biscuits. Biscuits too, form a part of the emergency ration, which every soldier carries, and tins of biscuits are often kept in the front line trench systems, to be used on occasions when the regular supplies of food may not be forthcoming.

Army biscuits are flat, square and hard, and their toughness at first gained for them no small notoriety. They are softer now than they used to be, but at the same time, they need to be hard, for they are intended for use on abnormal occasions, and must be able to withstand abnormal conditions, in the haversack on the pack.

Biscuits unlike bread, are manufactured by private contractors. When the war began, six firms made biscuits for the War Office, but nearly all biscuit manufacturing firms have since taken up the work. Raw materials are supplied to them, and the contract rates are regulated to secure a price to the Government and a fair profit to the manufacturer. The biscuits are packed in tin canisters, holding 15 to 25 pounds, and the empty canisters, for which a variety of uses have been found, form one of the most familiar objects in the trenches. Two million pounds of biscuits go to France every week, and during the first twenty months of the war alone, over two hundred million pounds were delivered to the Government by the biscuit manufacturers.

How far will a bee fly a day? This is a mooted question. Very often bees will not go further than a few hundred yards from the hive. If there is plenty of flora available in a short distance they will not go any further than is necessary. It quite frequently happens that bees do not go more than half a mile, but it is not uncommon for them to go two or three miles. Much depends on the lay of the land, the direction of the wind, and the amount of flora available in the immediate vicinity of the hive. Bees have been known to fly even ten miles across a body of water, and it is not unlikely that they will fly to the whole of the grain supplies of



## COMMERCIAL NEWS.

**Coal 24 A Ton.**  
Mr. Houston has given notice to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Shipping Controller a question, the object of which is to ascertain why British coal sent to Italy should there cost the private consumer £14 per ton, or thereabouts.

**Hankow Exports.**  
For the week ended January 9, the weekly circular of the Hankow British Chamber of Commerce reports:—The produce market continues very quiet, and with the exception of cotton, rather on the weak side. There is very little business passing. Demand from Italy for tallow and hides remains good, but America is still unwilling to pay the present China market equivalent. Cotton is very firm owing to the smallness of supplies arriving. Tallow is firm, but not many purchases have been reported. Supplies of goatskins are not very plentiful, but current rates of exchange and quotations from America should have the effect of reducing prices considerably.

**Russian Commercial Treaty Ended.**  
The following Foreign Office announcement appeared in a recent issue of the "London Gazette":—His Majesty's Ambassador at Petrograd has received from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs a Note dated October 24th last, stating that economic conditions arising out of the war compel the Russian Government to take into consideration the revision of their existing Commercial Treaties. They therefore denounce the Commercial Treaty between the United Kingdom and Russia of January 12th, 1859; the Treaty will accordingly be terminated on October 24th, 1918. The notice of denunciation is accompanied by the statement that the Russian Government will be ready to come to an agreement with His Majesty's Government in order that no inconvenience may be caused by the period of transition.

**Hankow Piece Goods.**  
The Hankow British Chamber of Commerce circular for January 9 says:—There is no change to report in the existing dull condition of this market. Money continues tight and consequently clearances are poor and uncertain. New business has been done in both Shanghai cloths and yarn for shipment after China New Year by those dealers who foresee that a rise in prices must take place soon, which is a sign of growing confidence. Local prices for both yarn and piece goods remain quite strong and with an upward tendency. A few hundred bales of Japanese yarns have changed hands at from Tls. 147 to Tls. 149, and sales of about the same quantity of Japanese 8½ lb and 10 lb, shirtings and jeans at slightly advanced prices have also been reported. Interior markets are all very short of supplies, but no business of appreciable proportions can be looked for until the political situation has been straightened out.

**British and U. S. Spindles.**  
Some time after the outbreak of the war it became very difficult or practically impossible to import British spindles into Japan, even under contracts previously concluded, and some Japanese spinners gave orders to the United States. Fears are now expressed, however, that American spindles cannot be used profitably in this country. It is estimated that the spindles so far ordered by Japanese spinners from the United States since the beginning of 1916 number 280,000. Formerly American spindles were not in general use, the reason being the unavailability both in price and quality as compared with the British product. The Osaka Mouseline Company was the first to send an order to the United States. It ordered 30,000 spindles in the early part of 1916, and the example was soon followed by other spinners, who ordered a total of 250,000 spindles during last year. At that time cotton yarn was booming, and it was calculated that with the high prices then obtaining it would pay to use American spindles. The boom, however, has since collapsed, and though the market has been improving, it is not considered that the cotton yarn business will enjoy for any length of time such prosperity as was seen in June

## ALSACE-LORRAINE.

## The Real Problem.

Mr. Sydney Brooks, writes in the *Daily Chronicle* as follows:—Alsace-Lorraine is more than a question of politics and sentiment, though it is that first of all. It is also a many-sided problem of international and competitive industry. In the current number of *Sporting Journal*, a privately circulated City magazine, I have developed this aspect of it at length. Here I can do little more than summarise the issues in a broad outline. It is of the first importance that they should be understood by the British people, as well as in White-hall.

When Molke in 1871 insisted upon, and Bismarck against his better judgment assented to, the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine, the main thought in their minds was that of securing a strategic frontier. They secured, though they did not know it at the time, something that has proved the base on which Germany has built up her towering fabric of prosperity and power, something without which Germany could not have begun this war, or could not have waged it for six months.

They secured the largest deposit of iron ore in Europe, and the second largest in the world. The soil of the lost provinces has made Germany's fortune. She has derived from it her metallurgical ascendancy, the motive power for her industries, her wealth, and, as a consequence, her naval, military and political power.

The area covered by this deposit embraces the Longwy and Briey districts in France, now occupied by the German armies, and portions of German Lorraine, of Luxembourg, and of Belgium. Also, for the moment, in German possession. If Germany could secure a peace based on her present military position the whole of this wealth of iron ore, estimated at some 5,000,000,000 tons, would pass under her control.

There are reckoned to be 2,800 million tons of iron ore in all Germany. Of these Lorraine alone is responsible for some 2,000 millions, or five-sevenths of the Empire's total supply. When Germany hypothecated the Lorraine beds, they were yielding about 500,000 tons of ore a year. In 1913 they were yielding over 40 times as much. Up to 1903 Germany had no need to import from abroad a single ton of ore. Lorraine alone enabled her to maintain for over three decades an unprecedented industrial expansion.

Since the war Germany has depended almost entirely on the Lorraine mines for the iron and steel which are the basis of all modern warfare. She has got some from the occupied districts of France and Belgium and Luxembourg, and some, too, from Sweden, but from three-fifths to four-fifths of her output during the war has come from Lorraine. Without the production of the provinces she snatched from France 48 years ago Germany would long since have exhausted her capacity for turning out the material of war. Liberate those provinces from her clutch—with their 21,000,000 tons of iron ore a year, their 3,800,000 tons of iron smeltings, their 2,300,000 tons of steel smeltings, and the useful coalfields of the Sarre valley—and a long step has been taken towards binding her down to peace.

Glance now at the French side of the question. In 1913 Alsace-Lorraine equalled the whole French output of pig iron and produced by itself only one-third less steel than all the French steel works combined. And yet the reserves of iron ore on the French side of the frontier are actually greater than on the German side. Why, then, with a larger supply of raw material, was France lagging behind Germany in the production of pig-iron and steel. The reason is that France is badly off, while Germany and Belgium are well provided with coking coal; and thus a very large proportion of the French ore was smelted into pig-iron in the blast furnaces of Germany and Belgium, much to the advantage of the iron industries in both of these countries, but of doubtful benefit to France.

## NEW ROUBLE NOTES.

The *N. G. Daily News* correspondent in Harbin telegraphed on January 17 as follows:—Owing to the immense speculations by Chinese in the new Russian paper money the Chinese authorities here have issued a proclamation insisting that all Chinese firms, shops, etc., accept the new issue of roubles on the same basis as the old rouble notes, at the same time warning these who refuse to accept them that they are liable to prosecution and a fine of ten times the amount involved.

This measure together with the resolution of the Chinese Eastern Railway to insist on payment of freight and fares being made with the new roubles, has caused the discount on the latter to diminish considerably and eventually they are likely to regain their par value.

**General Birdwood.**  
Lieut. Gen. W. R. Birdwood, Indian Army, Aide de Camp to the King has been promoted to the rank of general. General Birdwood greatly distinguished himself at Gallipoli, where he was immensely popular with the troops, especially the Australians. He was referred to by Sir Ian Hamilton in his dispatches as the "soul of Anzac."

Suppose now Germany were to win and were to annex the greater half of the ferruginous basin that lies on French soil. Territorially it would be a very small acquisition. Economically its value would be incalculable. It would mean that after the war Germany would be able to raise some 46,000,000 tons of iron ore a year, while the French output would be reduced to a bare 4,000,000.

Suppose, on the other hand, that the Allied victory is as complete as we all intend it shall be, and that Alsace-Lorraine is restored to France. The situation in that case would be almost precisely reversed. France would be in a position to extract about 45,000,000 tons of ore a year, and Germany would have to remain satisfied with a maximum yield of some 8,000,000 tons.

No blow, therefore, could more effectually cripple German industrialism, and with it Germany's capacity to organise another war, than the loss of the Lorraine ore beds. In the fate of Alsace-Lorraine there is involved nothing less than the industrial primacy of Europe.

Even, however, when France has resumed her rightful ownership of the lost provinces, and in doing so has become the supreme storehouse of iron ore on the Continent, the coal problem will still remain. Not only will it remain; it will be aggravated—and in a form that will ask for its right solution from both the French and the British Governments a high degree of commercial diplomacy.

France before the war consumed some 62,000,000 tons of coal a year. Of these she raised herself 41,000,000 tons and imported 21,000,000, about half of which came from Great Britain and the remainder from Germany and Belgium. With the restitution of Alsace-Lorraine she will require at the least 40,000,000 tons a year extra. Where is she to get it from? Great Britain or Germany? Wales and Northumberland or Westphalia? From her Ally, with whom a mutually advantageous bargain can be struck, or from her enemy, who will certainly use his supply of coal as a magnet to attract France, to build up anew his iron and steel industries, and to dominate French metal-lurgy in the future as in the past? It is clearly an almost vital interest both for France and for Great Britain that the formation of a huge Franco-German cartel, based on the reciprocal exchange of coal for ore, should be prevented, that we should ourselves supply France with the coke that will enable her to do her own smelting, and that we should take from her in return the iron ore that we now import from Sweden and from Spain. If we do this we shall have made it impossible for Germany ever to do so again.

## FOR THE LADIES.

## The Super-Blouse.

Although it is certain that the one-piece dress is to be pre-eminent this winter, the coat-and-skirt is too useful to be entirely superseded, says a *Home* paper. Moreover, the opportunity the latter affords for the wearing of a pretty blouse or an attractive jumper is an advantage that the majority of women will not lightly forego.

This season the blouse will provide a contrast to the skirt instead of harmonising with it in any way. Bright colours will be welcome so long as the dark days are with us, though white with touches of embroidery and of fur will also be fashionable. Of materials there is no lack of choice. Georgette, voile, and net vie with silk, satins, crepe-de-Chine, and velvets to gain the popular favour.

Fortunately for the economical, the blouse of last winter may still be worn without appearing old-fashioned. Turned-down collars or no collar at all will be worn, together with wide revers and bishop sleeves. The collarless neck is cut just as it may suit the individual—rectangular, round, or oval. Often, too, it is edged with fur, which, softening the line, does much to make it becoming. Fine embroideries are perhaps the most striking characteristic of the new blouses. They occur on every material, and are carried out in silks, wools, and beads according to the style and material on which they are worked. A blouse in orange georgette, for instance, would look lovely worked in mole silks, with the colour repeated in a little pointed collar and narrow cuffs of mole-coloured satin. And a black net blouse is most happily relieved by tiny emerald-green beads sewn in geometrical patterns on the shoulders and repeated in a "tie" which is knotted and hangs in front to the waist.

In any article on blouses the jumper must have a place as a matter of course, for it is evolved from the blouse and serves just the same purpose. This season brings some exquisite examples in chiffon velvet, in broche crepe-de-Chine, and in a new and very thick georgette. Jumpers of this description are almost too tempting for war-time, so attractive must they appear to anyone who appreciates good line and exquisite colour. Many in a heavy georgette are bordered with embroideries in wool—a chequered border in black and white or colour and white being decidedly fascinating.

There are many jumpers, too, for the evening in net worked in silver and gold, in fine crepe-de-Chine, and in georgette sparkling with silver. Far gives a special note of comfort to many of these, and tassels are frequent as decorative details. One tassel may hang from the point of the "V," or a series of tiny tassels are set on the shoulder, while another set holds the jumper at the waist.

Beautiful jumpers of this type can easily be made from "remnants" of material, which even now are often picked up for a moderate sum. For more practical purposes velveteen should be used. A brown velveteen, for instance, in a bright golden shade will look well for a whole season. It can be relieved with edgings of dark fur, and a hood collar of natter blue crepe-de-Chine renders it very becoming. A thick striped satin has also appeared, and is being used extensively for jumpers and blouses to be worn in the office or bank. Woven in bold plaids or in brightly-hued silks striped narrowly with black, they will provide a bright note in the dark days, while the touch of black saves them from being too quickly soiled.

**Geneva Cross for Volunteers.**  
In an Army Council Instruction (1820) issued by the War Office it is notified that Volunteers belonging to Volunteer Field Ambulances will wear the Geneva Cross arm badge, as worn by N.C.O.'s and men of the B.A.M.S. in addition to the badges prescribed to previous Volunteer Force Order. Details are given as to wearing the Red Cross emblem in the event of the Volunteers being called out for service.

## HONGKONG SHARE REPORT.

S.—SELLERS; B.—BUYERS; N.—NOMINAL.

## OFFICIAL PRICES.

## BANKS.

## MARINE INSURANCES.

H. K. & S. Banks b. \$620

Cantons b. \$227½

North China n. 1.115

Unions b. \$755

Yangtzes n. ex 73 \$205

## FIRE INSURANCES.

China Fires b. \$126

H. K. Fires n. \$310

## SHIPPING.

Bouglasses b. \$78

Steamboats b. \$17½

Indos (Def.) b. \$158

Indos (Pref.) b. \$33½

Shells n. 112½

Ferries b. \$28½

## REFINERIES.

Sugars b. \$9½

Malabons n. \$34

## MINING.

Kallans b. 38½

Langkats b. 14½

Raubos b. \$2.40

Tronohs s. 30½

Urals s. 28½

Oriental Cons. n. 27½

## DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, &amp; C.

H. K. Wharves b. \$86

Kowloon Docks sa. \$130

Shai Docks b. 73

## LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.

Centrals n. \$97

H. K. Hotels b. \$90

Land Invest. b. \$90

H. K. Hotels b. \$5.80

K'loon Lands n. \$30

Shai Lands n. 66½

West Points b. \$81

Reclamations n. \$115

## COTTON MILLS.

Ewos n. 170

Kung Yiks b. 14.10

Shai Cottons b. 121

Yangtzepeos b. 6.8

Oriental n. 144

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Borneos b. 48½

China Light & P. b. \$5.50

Providents b. \$7.50

Dairy Farms b. \$304

Green Islands b. 17½

H. K. Electric b. 48

H. K. Ice Co. b. \$187½

Ropes b. \$28½

Steel Foundries n. \$10

Trams, Low Level sa. \$64

Trams, Peak, old s. 84

Trams, Peak, new s. 84

Laundries n. \$12

U. Waterboats n. \$4

Watsons s. \$64

Wm. Powells b. 86

Morning Posts n. \$29

## CORRECTED TO MON THURSDAY JANUARY 24, 1918.

## BENJAMIN &amp; POTTS.

Share and General Brokers, Princes Building.

Tel. address: Broker.

## EXCHANGE.

## SELLING.

T/T Shanghai 2/11¼

3mo d/s 2/11½

60 d/s 2/11¼

4 m/s 3/—

T/T Shanghai Nom.

T/T Singapore 126½

T/T Japan 136½

T/T India Nom.

Demand, India Nom.

T/T San Francisco 70½

co & New York 160½

T/T Java Nom.

T/T Marks Nom.

T/T France 403

Demand, Paris 403½

## BUYING.

4 m/s. L/C 3/—

4 m/s. D/P 3/—

6 m/s. L/C 3/14

30 d/s. Sydney & 3/14

Melbourne 714

30 d/s. San Francisco 714

isco & New York 714

4 m/s. Marks 418

4 m/s. France 423

Demand, Germany 70½

Demand, New York 70½

T/T Bombay Nom.

Demand, Bombay Nom.

T/T Calcutta Nom.

Demand, Calcutta Nom.

Demand, Singapore 126½

On Haiphong 147 prem.

On Saigon 12

On Bangkok 32

Sovereign 655

Gold Leaf, per oz. 4240

Bar Silver, per oz. 27½

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DISCOUNT 1/16

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Hongkong 20 cts. 21½

Indos 10 cts. 21½

Indos 20 cts. 21½

Indos 30 cts. 21½

Indos 40 cts. 21½

Indos 50 cts. 21½

Indos 60 cts. 21½

Indos 70 cts. 21½

Indos 80 cts. 21½

Indos 90 cts. 21½

Indos 100 cts. 21½

Indos 110 cts. 21½

Indos 120 cts. 21½

Indos 130 cts. 21½

Indos 140 cts. 21½

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Indos 160 cts. 21½

Indos 170 cts. 21½

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Indos 190 cts. 21½

Indos 200 cts. 21½

Indos 210 cts. 21½

Indos 220 cts. 21½

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Indos 290 cts. 21½

Indos 300 cts. 21½

Indos 310 cts. 21½

Indos 320 cts. 21½

Indos 330 cts. 21½

Indos 340 cts. 21½

Indos 350 cts. 21½

Indos 360 cts. 21½

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Indos 380 cts. 21½

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Indos 420 cts. 21½

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Indos 440 cts. 21½

Indos 450 cts. 21½

Indos 460 cts. 21½

Indos 470 cts. 21½

Indos 480 cts. 21½

Indos 490 cts. 21½

Indos 500 cts. 21½



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EDGAR WARWICK.  
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Booking at MOUTRIE'S.  
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SHORT SEASON 5 NIGHTS ONLY.  
Beginning 29th JANUARY,  
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THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO. LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on TUESDAY 29th January, 1918, at NOON, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1917.

THE REGISTER OF SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY 19th to TUESDAY 29th January, 1918, (both days inclusive) during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.

THE WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTIETH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in this Company will be held at the Offices of Messrs. Jardine Matheson Company Limited, on TUESDAY 29th January 1918, at 11.30 A.M. for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1917.

THE REGISTER OF SHARES of the Company will be CLOSED from SATURDAY 19th to TUESDAY 29th January 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.

**Directors.**  
A. SHELTON HOOPER,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918.

**THE HONGKONG CENTRAL  
ESTATE LIMITED.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
that the **FOURTH ORDINARY COMPANY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS** in this Company will be held at the Offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd. on **TUESDAY 29th January, 1918, at 11.45 A.M.** for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the statement of accounts for the year ending **31st December, 1917.**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

**Directors.**  
A. SHELTON HOOPER,  
Secretary to the  
Hongkong Land Investment  
& Agency Co., Ltd.  
General Agents for the  
West Point Building Co., Ltd.  
Hongkong, 11th January, 1918.

**THE HONGKONG LAND  
RECLAMATION CO., LTD.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**  
that the **SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS** in this Company will be held at the Offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Ltd. on **TUESDAY 29th January, 1918, at 12.15 P.M.** for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors together with the

<p>of the Company will be closed  <b>FROM SATURDAY 19th to</b>  <b>TUESDAY 29th January 1918,</b>          (both days inclusive) during          which period no Transfer of          Shares can be Registered.</p> <p>By Order of the Board of          Directors,  <b>THE HONGKONG CENTRAL</b>  <b>ESTATE LIMITED.</b>  <b>A. SHELTON HOOPER,</b>          Secretary  <b>THE GENERAL MANAGERS,</b>          Hongkong, 11th January, 1918.</p>	<p>statements of Accounts for the          year ending 31st December, 1917.</p> <p>The REGISTER of SHARE          of the Company will be CLOSED          from <b>SATURDAY 19th to TUES-</b>  <b>DAY 29th January, 1918,</b> (both          days inclusive), during which          period no Transfer of Shares can          be Registered.</p> <p>By Order of the Board of          Directors,  <b>MOWBRAY E. NORTHCOTE,</b>          Secretary          Hongkong, 11th January, 1918.</p>
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